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SIPDIS

Sensitive

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SUBJECT: Mexican Summary of Meeting on Mexican HR Initiative (Peru)

REF: A) Lima 698

Sensitive but Unclassified. Please handle accordingly.

1. (SBU) Post transmits verbatim text received from the Peruvian Foreign Affairs Ministry of a summary, prepared by the Mexican Foreign Ministry, of the GRULAC working meeting in Mexico regarding Mexico's proposal to develop an informal mechanism for cooperation among GRULAC countries on human rights issues. Text begins:

2. (SBU) Informal Mechanism for Cooperation and Consultation in the Area of Human Rights

Report of Work Meeting
Mexico City
January 24-25, 2005

High level governmental representatives of Latin American and Caribbean countries met in Mexico City on January 24-25, 2005 in order to discuss the implementation of an informal mechanism for regional consultation and cooperation in matters of human rights, based on the following criteria:

I. Goals

A. To contribute to national efforts to promote and protect human rights;

B. To strengthen regional coordination in international forums in matters of human rights.

II. Principles

A. To acknowledge and respect national idiosyncrasies, as well as the various historical, cultural and religious patrimony of each one of our countries.

B. To avoid becoming a mechanism to supervise, monitor or evaluate any specific country.

C. To seek cooperation and coordination in matters deemed appropriate by the governments.

D. To include and be open to all countries in the region.

E. To avoid substituting and duplicating existing mechanisms and efforts, and to offer support to strengthen them.

F. To reaffirm the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights, as well as the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the analysis of the issues related to them (Vienna Declaration).

III. Domestic Policies in the Area of Human Rights

Goal: To promote the exchange of information on good practices, including experiences and international, regional and bilateral cooperation in human rights, in areas such as:

A. Interagency coordination to implement public policies and fulfillment of international obligations on human rights:

1. Coordination mechanisms among central and local governments

2. Consultation and Participation resources for civil society

3. Domestic coordination practices and arrangements to insure compliance with international obligations

B. Norms and public policies:

1. Legislative measures in the area of human rights

2. Domestic human rights programs (including specific plans in the area of education and non discrimination, among others)

3. Legislation and public policies in: Non-discrimination; Violence against women; Children; Handicapped persons; Trafficking in Persons; Migrants; Indigenous population;

Indemnifying damages

1C. Civilian and Political Rights (administration of justice): Fight against torture; Justice for minors; Prison system

1D. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

1F. Possible international, regional and bilateral cooperation in the area of human rights:

1. Exchange of information and experiences on cooperation with international mechanisms in:

a. Submitting periodical reports on the application of international treaties

b. Visits by international mechanisms of protection and representatives of international organizations of human rights

c. Litigation and negotiation

12. Cooperation with relevant agencies, funds and programs of the United Nations and other international organizations

13. Cooperation in the area of education and training in human rights

IV. Regional Coordination in International Forums
Purpose: To Foster informal consultations for the exchange of information on human rights stands, in order to coordinate and strengthen GRULAC's actions.

1A. Discussion on common elements for the Reform of the UN's Human Rights Commission (HRC).

1B. Coordination of consultations in the periods of sessions of the HRC, upon the summoning of the country in charge of GRULAC's coordination.

1V. Activities for 2005

Based on the issues mentioned above, a discussion was held about carrying out the following activities in the year 2005:

1A. Creation of an informal network of focal points of contact in the member countries' Chanceries to insure a smooth and prompt communication, exchange of information and coordination of activities.

1B. Mexico, as GRULAC Coordinator for the 61 HRC (March 14-April 22, 2005), will summon and coordinate informal consultations among countries belonging to the Group.

1C. Exchange of information on experiences and good practices.

1D. To carry out informal consultations as necessary, preferably along with multilateral meetings on human rights.

1E. The conducting of one or two regional seminars. The possibility of carrying out seminars on the following topics was mentioned, while additional proposals are awaited: the fight against torture; trafficking in persons; violence against women, domestic Programs in the area of Human Rights mechanisms.
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